

## **Domestic Violence**

### **I NEED HELP. WHO DO I CALL?**

- In an Emergency.....Call 911
- Eglin Security Forces.....882-2502
- Eglin Victim Advocate.....883-9443
- Eglin After Hours Advocate.....699-6866
- Hurlburt Victim Advocate.....830-5669
- Florida Abuse Hotline.....1-800-962-2873
- Okaloosa Sheriff's Victim Services.....651-7292
- Domestic Violence Centers
  - Shelter House.....1-800-44ABUSE
  - Refuge House.....681-2111
  - Salvation Army.....769-7989
- Legal Services of North Florida
  - Leon, Franklin, Jefferson, Wakulla.....385-9007
  - Gadsden, Jackson, Liberty, Calhoun.....875-9881
  - Bay, Gulf, Washington, Holmes.....769-3581
  - Okaloosa, Walton.....862-3279
- National Domestic Violence Hotline.....1-800-799-7233
- Domestic Violence Hotline.....1-800-500-1119
- Crimes Compensation Fund.....1-800-226-6667

### **Who is a victim of domestic violence?**

Domestic Violence includes any assault, battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of a family or household member by another who is or was residing in the same single dwelling unit.

### **What defines a “family or household member”?**

Family or household member includes spouses, former spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are presently residing together or who have resided together in the past as a family, and persons who have a child in common, regardless of whether they have been married or have lived together at any time.

### **What rights do I have if I am a victim?**

- To be safe and free from intimidation and harm;
- To change the situation;
- To be respected and treated fairly;
- To legally prosecute the abuser and make the abuser accountable for actions;
- To request and expect assistance from police, security forces, and command;
- To be informed of resources available to you and your family;
- To not be isolated from support services;
- To be informed of legal rights.

**A VICTIM ADVOCATE can assist you in many ways, including:**

- Education on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault;
- Providing safety planning for you and your family;
- Accompanying you to legal proceedings;
- Advocating for you to command;
- Assisting you with filing protective orders with the court;
- Assisting you with transitional housing and relocation;
- Referring you to counseling and support services;
- Supporting you in the decision-making process;
- Explaining the confidentiality limits

**You can also get help from the COURT SYSTEM. Examples include:**

- Petition for an Injunction against Domestic Violence;
- A temporary injunction until a full hearing is set for a permanent injunction;
- A full hearing if the temporary injunction is denied;
- Ask that the State Attorney file criminal charges against the abuser;
- Have the filing fees for the Petition for Injunction against Domestic Violence waived if you are not able to pay;
- Receive assistance from the Clerk of Court to file a Petition for Injunction against Domestic Violence or to report any violation of the injunction;
- Receive assistance and referrals from the local Domestic Violence Center;
- Request that the injunction be modified, if necessary.

**What is an Injunction?**

A court order which forbids the other party from calling, following, threatening, or committing any act of violence against you.

**An Injunction May Include:**

- An Order of “No contact” between you and the other party;
- An Order restraining the other party from committing any other acts of violence;
- An Order giving you the temporary use and possession of the home or excluding the other party from the home;
- Temporary custody of the minor child or children of the parties;
- Temporary support for the minor child or children of the parties;
- A section ordering the abusive party to go to counseling;
- Other relief that may be available.

**Do I have to move out before I get an Injunction?**

No, your ability to get an injunction will not depend on whether or not you have left the residence or household to avoid further acts of domestic violence.

**Is the Injunction valid in another state? Or, what if I already have an Injunction from another state?**

An injunction issued in the State of Florida is valid in any of the 50 states, including Indian territories. An injunction issued in any state is also valid in the State of Florida.

### **What happens when the Injunction is violated?**

Call the police! You should report the violation immediately to a law enforcement agency, either the local Sheriff or Police. You should also go to the Clerk's Office and fill out an affidavit of violation.

### **Reporting Abuse in the Military - Myths and Facts**

**Myth** - If the abuse is reported, the AD member will lose his/her job, leaving the family with no income or benefits.

**Fact** – Reporting abuse seldom leads to discharge from the military. The military has zero tolerance for abuse and wants help for its families. The Victim Advocacy Program is specifically designed to help families and victims through difficult times.

**Myth** – There is no protection for a victim if the abuser retaliates after the abuse is reported to command.

**Fact** – There are many protective measures that can be taken for victims of domestic violence. Silence about the abuse will not protect you.

**Myth** – Constant relocations can isolate victims from resources and support.

**Fact** – The Victim Advocate can help transition your family with resources and support at the new installation.

### **Safety Planning**

If you are planning to leave, be prepared:

- Tell someone safe about your plans;
- Pack a safety bag with important belongings, clothes, and documents for you and your children;
- Have a safe place to go in case a situation gets out of control;
- Let a neighbor know to call the police if violence occurs;
- Practice an escape route in case violence occurs;
- Teach your children how to call 911 and have them be a part of the safety plan

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